

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

*Capital Commitment, Inc.*  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ORIGINAL

February 10, 2003

By Hand

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Dkt. No. 02-384 (Ex Parte Comments)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write on behalf of Capital Commitment Inc. to support Verizon's application to provide interexchange (long distance) service in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and West Virginia. Capital Commitment is a non-profit corporation headquartered in Washington, DC providing job training and placement in telecommunications for the unemployed and economically disadvantaged. It has established training facilities in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia and has achieved an outstanding record of success in job placement and retention for its graduates, many of whom have excelled in the telecommunications industry.

Capital Commitment supports approval of Verizon's application to provide long distance service in the District of Columbia, Maryland and West Virginia because it will create new employment opportunities for Capital Commitment graduates by generating increased business for Verizon in those jurisdictions. During the last decade, Capital Commitment has worked closely with Verizon in training and placing a substantial number of graduates in Verizon's workforce as technicians specializing in central office switching, commercial and residential installation, and deployment of new technologies and services. In addition, Verizon has provided many graduates with advanced skills training and job promotion opportunities. Capital Commitment appreciates Verizon's dedication in this area to a diverse workforce, its strong record of hiring and promoting minority executives, its commitment to providing subcontracting and vendor opportunities to minority businesses, and the good corporate citizenship it has displayed by undertaking numerous employment based programs and making significant charitable contributions.

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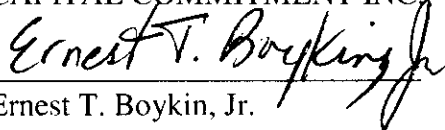
Capital Commitment also urges the Commission to approve Verizon's application because doing so will permit residents of the District, Maryland and West Virginia to enjoy the lower prices, greater choices, higher quality services, and increased deployment of new technologies that residents of the other 11 east coast states enjoy where Verizon provides local exchange service. Residents in those 11 states enjoy these benefits now since the Commission already has approved Verizon's applications to provide long distance service in those other states. Indeed, Verizon has been providing long distance service in New York, the first state where the company was authorized to provide such service, for more than three years.

That three year experience constitutes the most compelling evidence of the benefits of Verizon's involvement in the long distance business. For example, a study by the Telecommunications Research and Action Center found that after just one year the benefits to New York residential customers included a savings of about \$217 million annually on their telephone bills, with a consumer switching to Verizon for long distance saving an average of \$120 annually, and a consumer switching local service to AT&T, MCI/Worldcom, Sprint and other local service companies saving an average of \$96 annually. A more recent study by Consumer Reports found that consumers in New York are now saving an average of \$156 annually on their local telephone bills. These benefits have been replicated in other states where Verizon has been authorized to provide long distance service and will be experienced in the District of Columbia, Maryland and West Virginia as well once the pending application is approved.

Verizon is now one final step away from becoming the first regional Bell company to receive approval to provide long distance service in all states where it provides local exchange service, a major milestone that will permit Verizon to have national reach for its long distance and data services. Verizon has met all requirements necessary for approval of its application to provide long distance service in the District of Columbia, Maryland and West Virginia. The FCC should now expeditiously approve this final Verizon application.

Respectfully submitted,

CAPITAL COMMITMENT INC.

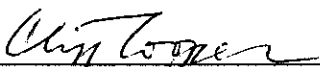


Ernest T. Boykin, Jr.  
President

cc: All Parties

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Ex Parte notice of Capital Commitments, Inc., was served by on the parties listed below via First Class Mail on Monday, February 10, 2003.

  
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